UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE (CHC) COUNCIL

The charge of the Commonwealth Honors College Council is to provide advice to the Dean on all matters relating to the administration of the Honors College, its curriculum and policy, including;

- honors course approvals;
- standards governing the establishment, modification and termination of all Departmental Honors and Multidisciplinary Honors programs;
- standards governing CHC student admission and graduation; and
- standards governing and the direction of Honors theses/projects and independent studies.

Minutes

Date **April 10, 2023 12:20–2:00 PM**

Location **via Zoom** https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92248238718?pwd=T2tRQkphYS9jS1Q3QmVrUUxuRXpKUT09
Meeting ID: 922 4823 8718 **Passcode:** 627260

Attendance Ben Marlin, Camille Cammack, Dominick Usher, Elena Carbone, Jean MacKimmie, Lisa Troy, Luis Marentes, Mari Castañeda, Melanie Radik, Muzzo Uysal, Patrick Sullivan, Casey Krone (minutes)

Approve Minutes Minutes are unanimously approved with one revision.

Announcements

Updates from the Dean (*Mari Castañeda)*

- A new Council Chairperson will need to be elected for next year as Lisa Troy will be on sabbatical next year. Please contact Dean Castañeda if you would like to discuss being the Council chair.
- MassURC is April 28, 2023. It is completely online due to campus center space being inaccessible and equity issues with regards to the other state universities and colleges. We are investigating how to make the conference hybrid for next year. CHC will be closed the day of the conference with all staff being in their offices to support the conference.
- A Celebration of Excellence invitation has been sent to platform party participants. CHC may also be closed after 12pm as we need all hands on deck.
- CHC Residential Community housing remains extremely popular among our students and demand significantly exceeds the available beds which has created some tensions including with students who are not in CHC Good Standing and are not eligible for CHCRC housing. CHC continues to work closely with Residential Life and Housing.

Updates from CHC Council Chair *(Lisa Troy)*

- Chair Troy is happy to meet with anyone who might be interested in being the CHC Council chair next year. Please contact Casey if you are interested.

New Business

1. Honors Thesis Milestones (*Elena Carbone/Mari Castañeda*) – documents attached
    a. CHC Associate Dean Elena Carbone reviews the Honors Thesis Milestones documents with the Council, which were developed in collaboration with CHC Advisor Mina Puig. The Curriculum and Policy Committee suggested changing “Additional Tasks” to “Additional Ideas” or similar language. These documents are intended to be a reference for CHC Advising, including HPDS; versions developed for transfer students could be communicated to the Community College honors advisors.

b. The Council likes the visual version better than the previous text-heavy versions explaining the thesis process.

Old Business

1. Mt Ida campus trip review *(Mari Castañeda)*
    a. Elena Carbone, Mari Castañeda, LizAnette Perez Lind, Luis Marentes, and Susan Ware met Mt. Ida Campus Director NEED NAME and other Mt. Ida staff during the visit to the Mt. Ida campus.
        i. Lecturer Christina Metvier presented about a program she created called LEAD - Link Education and Academic Development. One option for students to have an on-campus Mt. Ida opportunity – skills development model, doing internships/working with McLean Hospital, MassGeneral, Walden Eating Disorders Treatment Clinic, Leahy Clinic. Students are all together having an adventure and living at the Mt. Ida campus.
        ii. There are many opportunities available on the Mt. Ida campus, and their staff are interested in working with faculty to create programs that will make Mt. Ida a hub of innovation, collaboration, and engagement. Possibilities include internships in the Boston area, coop programs, RAP programs for first year, first semester flex start programs, alternative spring breaks, wellness retreats, etc.
        iii. The Council discussed various possibilities for CHC to utilize Mt. Ida for the benefit of CHC students, particularly opportunities that are not available in the Amherst area.

Any Other Business

- Elena Carbone and Lisa Troy present "CHC Colloquia: Benefits and Opportunities". Benefits, overview for departments, faculty, students. How can we encourage faculty to create honors colloquia?

Committee Reports

Reports from CHC Council Representatives on other Councils

1. Academic Standards Committee Review (*Elena Carbone*)
   Elena Carbone reviews the current PATHS proposal numbers. A new ASC member has been recruited for the upcoming academic year.
2. Academic Matters Council (*Dominick Usher*)
   In Addition to many minor course change approvals, Academic Matters Council discussed the Fall 2023 mass flex learning pilot and what that will look like; the Council also discussed developing more clear, comprehensive, and intentional language with regards to academic honesty in the academic regulations handbook. Modifying the language to bring it into the modern era as well as making it less hierarchical and long the lines of "this community agrees to…" with a focus on integrity and cohesive effort among all scholars on campus.
3. Research Council (*Thomas Brashear-Alejandro*)

   No updates.

Next Meeting

May 8, 2023, 12:20-2:00 pm

AY 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule – 12:20-2:00pm

SPRING: February 13, March 6, April 10, May 8